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BRIEF MENTION

Teachers of French literature are much indebted to Professor Christian Gauss for bringing out a volume of *Selections from the Works of Jean-Jacques Rousseau* (Princeton University Press, 1914). As the editor indicates in his preface, it has always been a matter of great difficulty to find anything of Rousseau's which could be conveniently obtained for class-room use, the result having been that the average student passes him by unread. Professor Gauss, therefore, without attempting an exhaustive presentation, has simply chosen four articles, each complete in itself, which would give the reader some idea of the style and manner of thinking of the author. The items selected are the *Discours sur les sciences et les arts*, two *Lettres à M. de Malesherbes* dated respectively January 12th and 26th, 1762, and the *Cinquième rêverie du promeneur solitaire*. The text is prefaced by a Biographical Note and a pleasing Introduction, and is followed by the necessary Notes. The booklet as a whole is attractive in appearance, though one might wish for slightly larger typing in the text.

M. P. B.

Prokosch's *Deutsches Lese- und Übungsbuch* (Holt and Company, 1913, 8vo., vi + 117 pp.) is intended as a Reader "to be taken after six or ten weeks of work in elementary German." The reading matter is divided into six parts, the first part dealing with Germany as a whole, each of the others with a division. The prose selections are followed by "Erklärungen," "Fragen," and "Übungen." In the case of poems, the "Fragen" and "Übungen" are omitted. All of this apparatus is, in the main, in German that is idiomatic, and simple enough to be within the comprehension of the beginner. The book, furthermore, offers the advantage of combining features of the older type of Reader with much of the newer *Realien*. A considerable amount of verse is included. It is, on the whole, well chosen, but unfortunately there is scarcely a single selection that is correctly given. In some cases the variation is doubtless intentional, as when, with sovereign freedom, Uhland's *Des Knaben Berglied* is reduced from five to three stanzas, or when, in the *Lied des Hirten* from *Tell*, the refrain is omitted, while in the *Lied des Alpenjägers* the last two lines are run into one, an operation that, incredible as it may seem, is also ventured upon in the first lines of the *Wandrer's Nachtlied*. If such mutilations are necessary, considerations of *Pietät* demand that they be at least noted.

Other cases seem real corruptions of the text, so, to mention only a part, *erwacht* for *erwachtet*, p. 56, l. 1; *spielen* for *spülen* (*die Wasser*), p. 56, l. 2; *Lief er gleich* (*schnell*), p. 35, l. 4; *ohne* for *ohn'*, p. 17, l. 7 (a *three*, not a *four* beat line); *hält* for *hat*, p. 68, l. 3.—A curious misconception is found in the note on *Kron' und Schweif* from the *Erbkönig*: "Nach manchen Sagen hat der König der Weldgeister die Gestalt einer riesenhaften Katze mit einer goldenen Krone auf dem Haupte." In keeping with this interpretation the Vocabulary renders *Schweif* with *tail*. Are we to conclude, accordingly, that *Erbkönigs Töchter* are "giant kittens"? That the map accompanying the volume is inadequate is shown by the fact that several names in the text (*Havel*, p. 5, l. 15; *Thüringer Wald*, *Fichtelgebirge*, *Naab*, p. 62) are not to be found on it. Osnabrück (p. 23, l. 45) is not in Westfalen but in Hanover. The number 5000, p. 78, l. 17, should, I suppose, be 65,000 (Gebhardt II, 185). With proper corrections, the *Lese- und Übungsbuch* should prove a very serviceable First Year Reader.

Meyer-Lübke's *Introducción al estudio de la Lingüística Romance*; traducción, revisada por e] autor,¹ de la segunda edición alemana, por Américo Castro (Madrid, Revista de Archivos, 1914, 8vo., 365 pp.) is intended primarily for use by "las gentes de lengua española." In view, however, of the many improvements introduced into the Spanish version, the book deserves a more general use than that just noted. The initial chapter (Bibliografía) is brought up to date, and a consecutive reading of the remaining chapters is much simplified by the plan of printing as foot-notes all adjustable bibliography. The translator's additions consist of elucidations of obscure points in the German text and further illustrative material for various linguistic phenomena, in which tasks he has been aided by Carolina Michaëlis de Vasconcellos. All additional material is clearly designated by means of square brackets. It is to be regretted that the word-index does not offer a complete record of the additional material. To cite but a few of the many omissions: Spanish *atril* 184, *efeuto* 109, *latril* 184, *nimbla* 176, *Los Arejos* 184, *Alcátara* 299, *Bisagra* 299; French *cheveu* 52, *grotte* 54, *moulin* 76; etc. The volume appears under the auspices of the "Junta para ampliación de estudios é investigaciones científicas."

¹ P. 251 note: "Desde aqui hasta el final va el texto sin la revisión del autor por hallarse interrumpidas las comunicaciones postales con Austria.—Agosto de 1914."